

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 -36. (cancelled).

37. (new) An access method, comprising:

receiving at a storage engine a certificate from the host device, the certificate containing a digital signature;

authenticating the digital signature;

receiving at the storage engine a file request from the authenticated host device, the file request being directed to a file stored on a storage medium accessible to the storage engine;

within the storage engine, reading security metadata associated with the file from the storage medium, the security metadata containing at least one rule governing access to the file;

within the storage engine, applying the at least one rule to the file request from the host device; and

if the application of the at least one rule provides a failing result, denying the file request.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one rule comprises a plurality of rules.

39. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the storage medium is an optical disk.

40. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the application of the at least one rule act comprises checking play privileges for the host device.

41. (new) The method of claim 37, further comprising: if the application of the at least one rule provides a successful result, granting the file request.

42. (new) A storage engine, comprising:

authentication means for authenticating a digital signature contained in a certificate from a host device, and

file request response means for responding to file requests from the host device, each file request identifying a particular file, the file request response means being responsive to file requests only if the authentication means authenticates the digital signature, the file request response means being configured to read security metadata associated with the file from a storage medium, the security metadata containing at least one rule governing access to the file; the file request response means being configured to apply the at least one rule to the file request from the host device; the file request response means being configured to deny the file request if the application of the at least one rule provides a failing result.

43. (new) The storage engine of claim 42, wherein the storage medium is an optical disk.